



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

On behalf of myself and the Common Council, I would like to give special thanks to the citizens of Westminster for your efforts during the past two weeks. The recent snowfall we experienced has been trying for us all. I want to thank you for your patience during the snow removal process when our roads crew spent countless hours plowing and removing the mountains of snow throughout the City. I would also like to recognize those generous residents who have helped neighbors and friends remove snow, clear mailboxes, shop for groceries, and obtain needed medications. The Blizzard of 2010 has brought out community together and made us stronger.

Last month, we reflected on the events and accomplishments of 2009. This month I would like to talk about our goals for 2010. There is no question that the City of Westminster has suffered from the downturn in the economy just like the State of Maryland and Carroll County. And there can be no question that our activities and services will be adapted to reflect that reality when we begin to define our budget priorities for next year.

However, there are certain broad principles we will follow in setting our goals for the coming year:

1. **We will complete projects already underway.** All of these projects were started in 2009 and grant funds are available for their completion.
 - Complete Pennsylvania Avenue/Union Street streetscape project. This project has already slowed the traffic and provided safe pedestrian crossings and, when completed, this area will provide an attractive, landscaped thoroughfare.
 - Construct and sell nine affordable townhomes in the Episcopal Housing Corporation Union Crossing project.
 - Repair and modify our parks and playgrounds to make them accessible for our handicapped residents.
 - Complete the final leg of the trail.
 - Complete and dedicate the Community Building in City Park, providing a concession stand, community meeting room and office for the Fall Fest volunteers.
 - Install the economic stimulus-funded "read only" water meters in the remainder of the City water system.
2. **We will position the City to take advantage of the economic recovery.** We will continue the efforts that support economic development in the City.
 - Implement Main Street business owners' recommendations to assist our businesses in maintaining their economic vitality.
 - Focus on the Route 27 corridor plan and enlist support from various business groups and organizations to jump start this business expansion.
 - Strengthen our business partnerships with the Westminster Town Center Corporation and the Greater Westminster Development Corporation.
3. **We will continue to improve our physical infrastructure in support of the City's programs and activities.**
 - Complete the construction of the Gesell well to conclude our production requirements under the Consent Order with MDE.
 - Explore the use of ground water from the Union Mills area to ensure that water will be available for new industry in the Technology Park and for infill development projects.
 - Move into the engineering and design phase of the required upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR ...*CONTINUED*

- Equip all municipal agencies, the County Sheriff's Office and the State Police with computerized access to all databases in the patrol cars. This will improve the effectiveness of our patrol officers as they will be able to complete searches and reports in their cars and not in the station. This is a County-wide, stimulus-funded activity.
- Implement Maryland Energy Agency funded energy saving measures in City owned buildings—improvements include energy efficient lighting, replacement of windows, and improvements to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems which will save the City significant utility costs in the future.

4. **We will continue to streamline the delivery of services to our residents.**

- Implement a Citizen Request System that will enable requests for City services to be made over the web page or via telephone at any time, not only during regular working hours.
- Adopt an electronic payment system to allow customers to pay their tax and utility bills and recreation services fees over the Internet.
- Modify our procedures for bulk trash pickup service.

While we still face serious budget restrictions this year, we have maximized the use of available grant funds to continue our progress and have examined our current processes and procedures to improve the services we deliver to our citizens.

Kevin Utz

Mayor

Help Shape Maryland's Future!

The Maryland Department of Planning is holding 13 **PlanMaryland** public forums, or meetings, throughout the state during the first half of 2010. You are invited to participate in one of the first of these this March taking place in Central Maryland (see date and location below).

Your input at this forum is invaluable to the **PlanMaryland** process and the plan that is ultimately created. MDP will facilitate innovative activities and small table discussions at the forum that will engage residents and other stakeholders in helping to cast a better vision for Maryland's future. When all 13 meetings are done, we will have involved thousands of Marylanders in this process.

WHEN and WHERE:

Tuesday, March 9th

Carroll Community College

"K" Building Auditorium, ample parking near the amphitheatre.

1601 Washington Road, Westminster, MD 21157

For more information, call the Maryland Department of Planning at 410-767-4500.

Westminster Road Runners Host Main Street Mile Run



The Main Street Mile once again hits the streets of Downtown Westminster on Wednesday, April 14, 2009. Sponsored by the Westminster Road Runners Club, 700 runners from all over the county and the State of Maryland are expected to race down East Main Street to the library in Downtown Westminster, beginning at 7:00 p.m. There are two heats at this annual event which will be held rain or shine. Heat #1 is officially timed and scored, and prizes will be awarded. Heat #2 is a Fun Run with medals being awarded to all children, ages 10 and under, who finish the race. To qualify for Heat #1, you must be at least 11 years old and be capable of running a mile in less than 10 minutes. There is no on-site registration for the event, although runners will still pick up their race packets at the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department at 28 John Street. For registration information, contact Beth Weisenborn at wrrc.web@gmail.com or call 717-677-6883.

Crime Prevention Tips: Thefts from Vehicles

The Westminster community has experienced a marked increase in the number of theft from vehicle cases over the past year. In the majority of the cases, the victim's vehicle was not locked and items of value were in plain view in the vehicle.



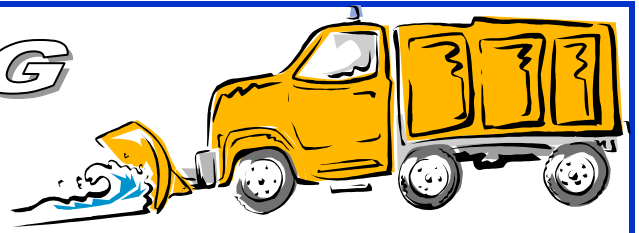
The Westminster Police Department offers these following suggestions to minimize the chance that YOU or a member of your family will be a victim:

- **Always lock your vehicle when it is unoccupied.**
- **Don't leave articles of value inside the vehicle. Lock them in the trunk or take them with you.**
- **Park your vehicle in well lit areas after dark.**
- **Never leave your vehicle running while unattended.**
- **Know your tag number, make, model and year of your vehicle.**

**CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY AT 410-848-4646
IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS!**

SNOW PLOWING

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The City of Westminster is committed to providing safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic under all conditions. The following information is provided to answer questions about our snow removal operations.

How many miles of road need to be cleared in the City? 62.002 miles.

Are there any snow emergency routes within the City limits? No.

Once snow begins to fall, how long does it take the Street Department to begin work? Two salt/plow trucks are on the streets within one hour of notification and ten salt/plow trucks are on the streets within two hours of notification.

How long does it take to salt the streets? Two hours.

How much salt does it take to clear City streets? 50-100 tons per trip.

How much salt is used for a 3 inch snowfall and what is the average cost? 150-300 tons. This year salt is \$60.00 a ton, so material cost is between \$9,000.00 - \$18,000.00. Payroll cost is about \$400.00 per regular hour and \$600.00 per overtime hour. Total cost is between \$15,000.00 to \$24,000.00 for a 10-hour period.

How much salt did we use last year at what cost? Last year 1,158.5 tons of salt was used at \$75.60 a ton, and the cost was \$87,582.60.

When does the Street Department begin plowing? When the accumulation reaches 2.0 to 2.5 inches.

How long does it take for plowing operations? It takes 10 salt/plow trucks and 10 additional trucks approximately four to five hours to remove every three inches of snow.

How fast does a snow plow travel? 5-7 miles per hour is the average speed of a snow plow which limits damage and keeps the snow off the sidewalk.

In what order are the streets plowed? Main collector roads are addressed first, with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. These main roads are Bennett Ave, Bond St, N/S Center St, Colonial Ave S, Cranberry Rd, Distillery Dr, Emerald Hill Ln, Englar Rd, E/W Green St, John St, Luther Dr, E/W Main St, Malcom Dr, Pennsylvania Ave, Royer Rd, Tahoma Farm Rd, Timber Ridge Dr, Uniontown Rd, Washington Rd, and WMC Dr. Side streets are next and then dead end streets. The main roads must be cleared even if it means the side streets remain unplowed. Parking lots are cleared after all the streets are finished.

Does the amount of snowfall impact this order? Yes. Once 8-10 inches of snow has fallen, some alleys may not be cleared until the event is over. After 15 inches of snow, the City will concentrate on keeping two-lane traffic on all main roads and one-lane traffic in all developments, while leaving some alleys unclear until the end of the event. The Utilities, Water and Waste Water Departments provide vehicles and drivers to assist the Streets Department during heavy snowfalls.

What do I do if my driveway is blocked because of plowed snow? All snow plows angle the same way—to the driver's right—and when going by your home they will push the snow in front of the driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to their driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until the crews have done their final cleanup on the street.

How long do I have to clear my sidewalk? Per City Code, property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk along their property line within 24 hours after a storm and keeping them clear.

2010 Census is Coming!



The U.S. Constitution requires that the population of the United States be counted every 10 years. The next Census Day is April 1, 2010. The goal of the census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place on Census Day. Facts gathered in the census also help to shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education,

senior services and much more.

This count determines which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. Data from the 2010 Census will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years.

In 2007 alone, Carroll County received \$716.38 per person in federal funds based on the 2000 census.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census includes only 10 questions that ask for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about *how* we live as a nation - our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more - are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law.

All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

For more information, please visit these sites:
www.census.gov and www.census.state.md.us.

TreeHugger News

The City has been notified that it will be recertified as a *Maryland PLANT Community* for the eighteenth year. This certification from the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee acknowledges the City's commitment to being actively involved in urban and community forestry.

The Tree Commission is in the planning stages for its Arbor Day event, to be held the end of March. Stay tuned to the City's website for details coming soon.

The Master Gardener's spring lecture series for 2010 includes sessions on composting, ornamental trees and shrubs, edible gardens, and shade loving plants. Visit their website to learn more:

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Extension/local/Carroll/mastergardener.cfm>

Did you know that Westminster Has Two Community Gardens?

If you join, you can have a plot of your own in one of the City gardens to grow fresh fruits and vegetables for FREE!

Please contact Melissa Hynes at 410-848-7967 or at mhynes@westgov.com if you are interested in joining the Westminster Community Garden during the 2010 garden season.

Top 10 Reasons to Grow a Garden

1. Save Money: The average family can save about \$500 per year on groceries by planting and maintaining an average garden.

2. Fresh Produce Tastes Better: Ever notice the difference in taste between a fresh home-grown tomato and a tomato bought at the supermarket?

3. Exercise: All the bending and lifting involved in maintaining a garden, from planting seeds to pulling weeds can really have an impact on overall health.

4. Get More Nutrients: From the time produce is picked off the plant to the time it is eaten, nutrients are lost. The fresher fruits or vegetables are, the more nutrients they provide.

5. Save Time: Growing a garden does not have to take up the entire summer. A few minutes a day can go a long way toward producing an amazing amount of fruits and vegetables.

6. Teach Children with the Garden: Children love to know where things come from, especially food. What easier way to show a child where green beans come from than to show them the plant the green beans are growing on?

7. Keep Children Healthy: Children are more apt to eat something when they are given the opportunity to help grow their food.

8. Save the Environment: Most produce found in a supermarket is not organically grown and many chemicals are used to help the food grow.

9. Increase Your Home's Value: Certain well-established perennials can increase the value of a home; blueberry bushes and grape vines are excellent examples of edible perennials.

10. It Is Easy: An amazingly productive garden can sustain a family with very little actual work done. Gardening is not back-breaking labor, but a fun activity the whole family can enjoy!



Historic District Commission Report

We are in search of motivated citizens who care about the historic buildings and sites of Westminster to serve on the Historic District Commission.



WESTMINSTER HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION

The commission meets one evening per month, and conducts special projects as they arise. No special training or education is required! If interested, contact Tim Rogers in the Planning Department at 410-848-4628 or Mayor Utz's office at 410-848-2522.

We are currently in the early planning stages for the 2010 Holiday House Tour, which will showcase the lovely homes and churches of Historic Belle Grove Square. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2010, and will be held rain or shine (or snow).

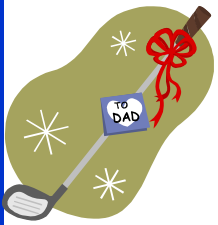
We have begun planning a Preservation Month Open House for May 2010. The meeting will offer a chance to meet HDC members, learn about tax credits for working on your historic home, and find out about opportunities to get involved in preservation activities in Westminster. Check the City's website for more information in the coming months. For more information, contact Tim Rogers in the Planning Department at 410-848-4628 or trogers@westgov.com.

Recreation & Parks Events: March, April & May

April 3: Easter Egg Hunt. Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Westminster City Hall Grounds (1838 Emerald Hill Lane). Times are 10:30am for ages 1-4 and 11:30am for ages 5-8. There will be over 4,000 filled plastic eggs and 100 special prize eggs scattered about. The hunts are **FREE** and open to the public. A bunny petting zoo, face painting, basket raffles, and food will be available for purchase. Hunts are RAIN OR SHINE!



April 10, 10am: Father/Son Golf Tournament. The 5th annual golf event will take place at Westminster's Island Green. The cost is \$25/twosome, which includes light refreshments, awards, and door prizes. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st place winners in the following age groups: 5-7, 8-10, and 11-13 years old. Tournament is limited to 36 twosomes, which are comprised of ONE ADULT MALE and ONE MALE CHILD GRADES K-8th). Rain date is April 17th. Sponsored by Westminster Barber Shop in the 140 Village Shopping Center.



May 8, 9:30am: Flower and Jazz Fun Run. The Fun Run is held at the Wakefield Valley Community Trail (Tahoma Farm Road). There will be a 200-yard dash for children ages 6 and under starting at 9am. The one mile fun run starts at 9:15am for ages 7 and up. The timed 5K will begin at 9:30am. A \$20 donation is requested; a \$5 discount is available when registering 2 or more participants.

May 8, 10am—4pm: Flower & Jazz Festival. The Flower & Jazz Festival takes place in Historic Downtown Westminster and is designed for a leisurely day of fun and jazz. Delicious food and great entertainment will be offered. Local nurseries set up beautiful displays of unusual plants and shrubs. Over 100 craft vendors display a wide variety of unique items. This event is open to the public. Moms: Don't forget to visit the information table for your free gift!

Admission and parking are FREE! No pets please. A vendor form is required. Call for more information: 410-848-4883.



May 12 & 19, 6:30-9pm: Mother/Son Date & Father/Daughter Date. Events are held at Martin's Westminster and are \$60 per couple. Boys and girls must be K-8th. The evening includes dinner, dancing, games, door prizes, a 5x7 photo of the couple, parting gifts, and much more! Tickets are non-refundable and must be prepaid. A couple is considered one adult and one child—NO EXCEPTIONS. Tickets go on sale March 3rd, space is limited!



May 31, 10am: Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. The Parade starts at 10am on Pennsylvania Avenue and ends on Church Street at the Westminster Cemetery. A memorial service will begin at 11am in the cemetery. For more information contact Daniel Bohn at 410-848-6179.

Westminster Family Center

The Westminster Family Fitness Center is a Full Service Health and Wellness Center for all ages! Features include many weight machines and free weight options, cardio equipment, aerobics classes, locker rooms and showers, and a game room. It is open 7 days a week, and memberships and daily guest fees apply. Call for rates or to ask about renting the gymnasium: 410-751-5501. Child supervision is available.

Westminster Municipal Pool

The Westminster Municipal Pool is open daily starting Memorial Day through Labor Day. The pool is located at 325 Royer Road and is open to the public. Pool applications are being accepted now! 2010 member fees are \$200/City Family membership and \$128/City Individual membership; \$260/County Family membership and \$146/County Individual membership. Call for more information: 410-857-5673.

3rd Annual Corbit's Charge Civil War Ball

Experience a sense of what one's social life was like more than 145 years ago. Join us for an evening of 1860s period dancing, dance instruction, light refreshments, door prizes and fun in Historic Downtown Westminster. Briant and Karin Bohleke will serve as dance master and mistress, with music provided by Peg Shutes and Bruce Young of Smash the Windows. The ball is for the experienced and beginner alike. Period attire or formal wear is requested. Proceeds benefit the Corbit's Charge Commemoration Committee, a not-for-profit dedicated to educating the public on the Battle of Westminster (Corbit's Charge) and other Civil War events that occurred in Westminster.



Location: Old Armory Building, 100 Longwell Ave, Westminster, MD 21157

Time & Date: Saturday, March 27, 2010 8 p.m.—11 p.m.

Admission: \$20.00 per person

Contact Susan Harry for more information at 410-848-9161 or sharry@westgov.com.

Sponsored by the Corbit's Charge Commemoration Committee and The City of Westminster Department of Recreation and Parks.

Carroll Arts Center Events: March and April

Friday, March 12, 8pm: *The Commitments*; 1991, 118 mins, R. FLICC presents a film of hard, driving music and Irish spirit to kick off the "St. Patty's" weekend.



Set in the slums of North Dublin, it follows Jimmy Rabbitte, just out of school, who decides to put together a soul band. Song by song, gig by gig, they climb to the top, but internal strife also builds. One moment the audience is on their feet celebrating the great classic soul sounds of "The Commitments," the next moment they are on the edge of their seats waiting to see if the band can hold it together amid the turmoil of troubled Dublin. Filled with great music and stellar performances, the film is a real audience favorite.

Saturday, March 13, 2pm & 8pm: *Barleyjuice*. Get ready to Sham ROCK!!! Back by overwhelming demand



is this Celtic Rock phenomenon that takes command of the stage with their hard, driving performances. This Philadelphia-based band has a loyal following of "Juicers" from around the

world. Their 2005 hit "What's Up Yours?" continues to be just one of the many highlights of their exciting high-energy shows. Tickets are between \$20 and \$25.

Friday, April 2, 8pm: *Enchanted April*; 1992, 95 mins, PG. Presented by FLICC, this lavishly romantic film is an Academy Award winner and a favorite with the ladies. Set during post World War I, this gorgeously filmed story follows four women who rent a chateau on a remote Italian island to try to come to grips with their lives and relationships. They explore the differences in their personalities, reassess their goals, and reexamine their relationships in a sisterly fashion. Together they find romance, hope and ultimately liberation during their month-long holiday. It is described as a sumptuous "mini-trip" through the breathtaking countryside of Italy. The screening is scheduled to coincide with the annual Purse Auction sponsored by the Seniors Keep in Touch (SKIT) which is also held at the Carroll Arts Center.



Carroll Arts Center Galleries

Ubuntu: January 14—March 16. *Ubuntu*, which in Bantu means "I in You and You in Me," features artists who grew up in other nations and now make their home in Maryland. Their art is reflective of a combination of styles from traditions of their birth nations combined with their newfound Western aesthetic. Home, family, love, nature, war and loss, themes of our collective humanness are expressed realistically, abstractly and in mixed media.

Youth Arts Month: February 16—March 11. Art work representing the finest in creativity in our County's Elementary and Middle Schools. Joyful, colorful expressions of youthful vision fill the Community Gallery from floor to ceiling in this annual celebration.



Art from the ARC: March 18—30. The ARC of Carroll County presents and exhibit of art created by their clients. The display will be full of bold color and unbridled imagination.



3rd Annual Peep Show: April 9—17, 10am—8pm daily except April 11 (1-5pm) and April 15 (event closes at 5pm). Admission is FREE! This wacky event has quickly become one of the most anticipated community



events and attracts more than 5,000 visitors from the region. Last year's event attracted 140 amazingly creative entries, including a ball gown tailored entirely out of Peeps, an over-sized Rubik's cube comprised of 1,600 Peeps, a Keith Haring artistic masterpiece recreated in Peeps and even several stop-action Peep films. It is truly an astounding display of sculpture, dioramas, mosaics and graphic arts. The public can vote for their favorites by purchasing vote chips (\$1 each, 10 for \$5 or 25 for \$10) and placing them into a container next to each work of art. Last year more than 9,000 votes were cast! Awards to those receiving the top five highest votes will be announced at the closing reception on Saturday, April 17. All proceeds will benefit the Carroll County Arts Council, one of the community's most vibrant non-profit organizations. There will also be an array of Peep souvenirs and Peep treats for sale. Sponsored by local orthodontist Dr. Edward M. Goldman.